

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Thirty-second Annual Session

—OF THE—

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

—OF THE—

Original Order Of Baptists

—HELD WITH—

Hepsibah Church, Marion Co., Ala.

ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

1900.

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THE DEMOCRAT,
Printers and Stationers,
Hamilton, Ala.

Minutes.

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The 32nd Annual Session of the Liberty Baptist Association of the Original Order of Baptists convened with Hepsibah church, Marion County. Va., on Friday before the 4th, Sunday in Sept. 1900.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. J. D. Stell. Text Ephesians 2 chapter, 10th verse. "We are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus, unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Adjourned for short time.

The Association came together by singing, and with Eld. J. D. Stell former moderator and G. W. Gilliland former clerk proceeded to business.

Called for the letters from the churches composing this Association which were read and all received and delegates names enrolled as statistical table will show.

Called for the election of moderator and clerk, which resulted in the election of Eld. J. S. Sumners, moderator and G. W. Gilliland clerk.

A devotional committee was appointed to wit: W. H. Richard, W. J. Threadgill, Jack Dunn, John Gilmore, B. F. Thompson, M. O. Young and Abby Ford.

Committee on arrangements, T. A. Byrd, T. J. Howe, and A. Thompson, on motion the moderator and clerk of the Association were added to this committee.

Committee on finance H. T. Clark, L. J. Stephens. Devotional committee reported Bro. G. W. Gilliland, Jr. to preach Friday night J. S. Sumners to follow. Eld. P. O. Chittum to preach Saturday at 10 o'clock J. R. Jones, to follow. J. D. Stell, to preach Saturday at 2 o'clock James Sparks to follow. G. J. Stephens to preach Saturday night H. T. Clark to follow, J. S. Sumners to preach Sun-

day at 10 o'clock, H. T. Clark to follow, report received and committee discharged. Adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

The Association met according to adjournment on Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, prayer by Eld. J. S. Sumners. Roll called and a quorum present. On motion Bro. J. D. Stell was added to the New Ramah, H. T. Clark to the Hepsibah delegation and James Sparks to the Marietta delegation.

The committee on arrangements made report that the minutes of last year be taken as a guide this year, report received and committee discharged.

Called for petitionary letters, none presented. Called for letters from corresponding Associations. Received a letter from Ebenzer Association, letter read and received and Bro. J. D. Stell was appointed to write them. Received letter and minutes from New Liberty Association, letter read and received and Bro. Lucian Stephens to write. Received letter and minutes from Mt. Olive Association, letter read and received and Bro. H. T. Clark to write. Received minutes from Duck River Association, minutes received and P. O. Chittum to write. Received minutes from Mt. Pleasant Association, minutes received and Bro. J. R. Jones to write. Received no letters, minutes or delegates from New Prospect Association but agreed to send G. W. Gilliland, J. D. Stell and H. T. Clark as delegates to their Association. Bro. J. D. Stell to write corresponding letters. Called for petitionary letters from sister Associations. None presented.

The next Union meeting of the 1st District will be held with Bell Chappel church, Lee county, Miss., commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1901., J. J. Jones to preach the introductory sermon, J. S. Sumners, alternate. The Union meeting of the 2nd District will be held with Mt. Joy church, Marion County, Ala., commencing on Friday before the 4th Sunday in

August, 1901. J. D. Stell to preach the introductory sermon, J. S. Sumners, alternate. The next Association will be held with Zion's Rest church Franklin county, Ala., commencing on Friday before the 4th Sunday in Sept., 1901. H. T. Clark to preach the introductory sermon, J. S. Sumners alternate. Called for the reading of the circular letter. Read, received and ordered printed in these minutes. Bro. H. T. Clark was elected to write the next circular letter.

Called for the reading of letters to corresponding Associations, letters read and all received. and ordered sent by mail. Called for questions or queries, none presented.

The committee on finance reported \$10 90 received by contributions, report received and committee discharged. On motion the clerk was allowed \$3.00 for his services. The clerk ordered to have 600 copies of these minutes printed and to reserve 150 for corresponding purposes. On motion the Association tenders its thanks to the brothers, sisters and friends for the hospitality shown us while among them. A parting hymn was sung and with much feeling the brothers, sisters and friends bade each other farewell and adjourned to meet at the place and time appointed.

J. S. SUMNERS, Moderator, Marietta, Miss.

G. W. GILLILAND, Jr., Clerk, Rara Avis, Miss.

Circular Letter.

Dear brethren as you have appointed me to write a circular letter, I now undertake the task hoping to have the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The ordinances of the church shall be my subject especially baptism. We have but little hopes of changing any one who have long since made up their minds either on the mode of baptism or its design.

Baptism is of divine origin and was first performed by John the Baptist who was sent from heaven clothed with the authority to do the work and the baptism that John administered was accepted by Christ and was sanctified by the Father and the Holy Spirit. Now just what that baptism consisted of is the great point in controversy. We think the evidence is strong in favor of immersion. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 6 chapter 4th verse, "We are buried with Him by baptism into death etc." also we hear the same writer saying in Colossians 2 chap. 12 v., "Buried with Him in baptism" furthermore we see that Christ was baptised "in the waters of Jordan" also we see Philip and Eunich went down into the water to do this work. Now brethren if the modern method of sprinkling had been in practice then we could see no reason why Christ or Philip and Eunich should have gone into the water to perform that duty, neither could Paul have spoken of it as being a burial with any degree of propriety. Much more could be said in favor of immersion, but we will now speak of the design of baptism. What was the object of Christ's baptism? John says Christ was baptised to make himself manifest to Isreal. Is it saying too much to say that we are baptized to manifest ourselves as His children and to declare our faith in Him and not for the purpose of obtaining eternal life as some teach.

We will now speak of the communion. Christ instituted his Holy supper and commanded His disciples to keep this in remem-

brance of Him, the Apostle Paul says as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ye do show the Lords death till he comes. Then the Lords supper is to be kept by his children in his church in memory of the great sacrifice that he made for us. In the 13 chapter of John we are told that after the supper was ended our Lord laid aside his garment and girded himself with a towel, after that he poured water into a basin and washed His disciples' feet, and He saays if I your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye ought to wash one-anothers' feet. Furthermore he says if ye know these things happy are ye if ye do them. Some will say that this is not an ordinance and should not be practiced in the church. Brethren should not this be observed as well as the Supper which is so closely connected? With this light we are very sorry that some Baptists have been lead to believe that the washing of the saints' feet is not a church ordinance, and they have got their consent to leave off this Heavenly given right. Now, may the Holy Spirit enable God's children to all see and understand the truth and give them courage to obey His teaching. May God's blessings be upon all His children, is my prayer. Farewell.

J. S. SUMNERS.

Constitution.

1st, The association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on presenting letters testifying their appointments shall be entitled to seats.

2nd, The letters from the different churches must state number of members in full fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excluded and dead since last association.

3rd, The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the Liberty Baptist Association of the Original Or-

der of Baptists who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage or to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches, but shall be merely an advisory council and in no case shall it act otherwise. The association may drop from its communion any church which may become heterodox or disorderly that will not be reclaimed by proper admonition.

4th, Each church shall be allowed three delegates and on failure to represent shall show cause of said failure at next session.

5th, New churches may be admitted to our union upon application by letter and delegates, and if found orthodox and orderly it may be signified by moderator giving right hand of fellowship.

6th, The association shall appoint a moderator from among the delegates or ministers who shall see that proceedings are conducted decorously and decently, and take the voice of the association on questions properly brought before it. A clerk shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to prepare minutes of the body.

7th, The association may if required by any church in its body investigate and advise on any difficulty the church cannot settle.

8th, Questions of immediate concern to the union when sent by any church in its letter, or handed in by proper motion, and second shall be answered when opportunity admits.

9th, The association shall have a fund to support it which shall be supplied by volunteer contributions of churches through their delegates, said money to be placed with a treasurer which is responsible for all money received or paid out as the association directs.

10th, The proceedings of the association shall be kept by the clerk in a book provided for the purpose.

11th, The association may appoint one of its ministering brethren to preach the introductory sermon at the next session, and one

of its members to write a circular letter.

12th, The association shall be governed in all cases by a majority of the members present except in the reception of churches which must be unanimous.

13th, The association shall try to furnish the churches with minutes of the proceedings.

14th, Amendments may be made to this constitution at any time when two-thirds of the church deem it necessary.

15th, The minutes of the association shall be received and corrected and need be signed by the moderator and clerk before the association rises.

Rules of Decorum.

1st, The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2nd, But one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the moderator.

3rd, No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject under consideration or use words of personal reflection.

4th, Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the Association unless withdrawn by the person making it and preference must be given to the first motion made.

5th, Every case taken up by the Association shall be disposed of or withdrawn before another is made.

6th, After allowing sufficient time for debate on a subject before the Association the moderator shall take the question and those in favor of the thing proposed shall rise to their feet, those opposed keep their seats, the moderator shall announce the decision.

7th, No member must depart from the service without leave.

8th. No member shall speak more than twice on the subject without leave, nor shall the voice of the Association be taken until the debate is over.

9th. The appellation 'brother' shall be used in addressing one another.

10th. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as any other member provided the chair is filled, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11th. Any member violating these rules may be reprov'd as the Association thinks proper.

Abstract of Faith.

1st. We believe in one only true and living God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost and these three are one.

2nd. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the words of God and shall be the only rule of faith and practice.

3rd. We believe that in consequence of Adams transgression that all men became sinners and that man is unable to extricate him self from that fallen state unaided by the Holy Spirit.

4th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ and that obtained by faith in Christ.

5th. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience.

6th. We believe that the Saints in Christ are by the power of God kept through faith unto salvation and that not one of them will be lost in eternity.

7th. We believe that baptism and the Lords Supper and wash-

ing of the Saints feet are ordinances of the church of C.

8th. We believe that none but true beleivers in Christ such as have been regularly baptized by immersion in water have the right to commune at the Lords table.

9th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgement.

10th. We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked well be eternal.

11th. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and the government thereof is with the body.

12th. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of Christ except those who have been regularly baptized, called and legally set apart by a qualified presbytery.

Statistical Table.

CHURCHES		PASTORS.		NAMES OF DELEGATES.										Minute Fund	
1st DISTRICT.				POST OFFICE.											
Zion's Rest.....		J. J. Jones.....		Bellgreen, Ala		W H Richard.....									
Marietta.....		J. S. Summers.....		Marietta, Miss		J S Summers, I. Threudgill, James Sparks									
New Prospect.....				Not Represented		Not Represented									
Big Bear Creek.....				Not Represented		Not Represented									
Oak Ridge.....				Not Represented		Not Represented									
Pleasant Hill.....				Not Represented		Not Represented									
Bell Chapel.....		J. S. Summers.....		Buddwyn, Miss E. C. Chittum.....											
2nd DISTRICT.															
New Bethel.....		J. L. Stell, J. Davis.....		Barron, Miss J. R. Jones, J. D. Stell, Jack Dunn											
Friendship.....		L. J. Stephens.....		Detroit, Ala L. J. Stephens, A. Thompson, J. S. Gilmore.....											
Mount Joy.....		J. D. Stell, H. T. Clark.....		B F Thompson, T. A. Byrd.....											
Hebrew.....		H. T. Clark, J. D. Stell.....		Hamilton, " H. J. Clark, T. J. Howe, M. O. Young.....											
Fairview.....		J. D. Stell.....		Yockany, Miss John Roberts, Charley Chittum, Abby Frost											
Meeting days															

